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FOWEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1952

J.G.S.Turner,
M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Fowey.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1952

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Webb, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, and to his staff for their help. Thanks are due also to Mr. Gatley and his Deputy for advice and help.

I thank the members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J.G.S. Turner,

Medical Officer of Health.

Summary of Vital Statistics

Area (in acres)	2979
Population (estimated mid-year)	2307
Number of inhabited houses	782
Rateable value	£18,936
Product of a Penny Rate	£76

Live Births	Male	Female	Total	Rate/1000 Population: Fowey	Rate/1000 Population: Eng. & Wales
Legitimate	11	17	28	12.15	
Illegitimate	0	0	0		
For comparative purposes rate corrected for age and sex distribution				13.35	15.3.
Still Births					
Legitimate	0	1	1	0.43	0.35
Illegitimate	0	0	0		
Deaths (all causes)	27	18	45	19.5	
For comparative purposes rate corrected for age and sex distribution				14.82	11.3

Maternal Deaths				Rate/1000 Total Births
	0	0	0	0.72

Infant Mortality (deaths under 1 yr. of age)				Rate/1000 Live Births	
Legitimate	1	0		43.4	27.6
Illegitimate	0	0	0		

Deaths under 2yrs. of age (due to Enteritis & Diarrhoea)					
	0	0	0	0	1.1.

As the numbers involved in calculating these rates are small no significance need be attached to the rates, and wide fluctuations probable from year to year.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following is a list of the cuases of death in accordance with the abbreviated list of the International List of 1948.

		Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections..	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm stomach	-	-	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus...	2	-	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	4	3	7
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes...	1	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system...	4	3	7
18.	Coronary disease, angina..	4	-	4
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ...	-	-	-
20.	Other heart disease..	3	3	6
21.	Other circulatory disease.	-	1	1
22.	Influenza..	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia..	-	-	-
24.	Bronchitis.	1	-	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system..	1	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.. ...	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis enteritis & diarrhoea ...	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis...	-	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostrate..	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	4	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents...	-	-	-
34.	All other accidents..	2	-	2
35.	Suicide...	2	-	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war. ...	-	-	-
	All causes	27	18	45

The following short table gives the percentage distribution of age at death.

Age group at death	Percentage dying Males	Females
0 - 1 yrs.	3.7	0.0
1 - 59 "	14.8.	38.8
60 - 69 "	14.8	22.3
70 - 79 "	40.8	22.3
80 - 89 "	25.9	16.6
90 and over	0.0	0.0
	100.0	100.0

The single infant death was due to convulsions.

SECTION "A"

Area (acres) 2979. The district consists of the estuarine town of Fowey with a large rural background. The town is a very popular seaside resort and the influx of summer visitors is increasing yearly. This and the export of China Clay from the port are the two principal industries.

Population The Registrar General's population figure for 1952 was 2307. The temporary population in the summer months is estimated to add another 2,000 persons.

Number of inhabited houses. The number of inhabited houses is 782 The rateable value is £18,936 giving a penny rate of £76.

Meteorological Data. The weather throughout the year was better than average. There were 1673 hours of sunshine - 60 hours above average and confined mainly to the months of May to September. The rainfall for the year was 33.88 ins. being 3 ins. less than normal.

The highest temperature was on 1st. July 81° F
" lowest " " " 5th. Feb. 27° F
" highest rainfall " in October 4.54 ins.
" lowest " " " June 0.79 ins.
The most sunshine was in May - 215 hrs.
The least sunshine was in November - 67 hrs.

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers.

(a) Medical Officer of Health - J.G.S.Turner M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H., 1.1.52 - 31. 12.52

(b) Sanitary Inspector - A.F.J.Webb, A.R.S.I. 1.3.52 - 31.12.52.

Laboratory Facilities

All investigations are carried out at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where material is sent for investigation.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis

In addition to the usual diphtheria prophylactic a supply of whooping cough prophylactic both alone and in combination with that for diphtheria is available.

Supplies are available to medical practitioners at the Area Health Office, St. Austell.

Ambulance Service

The ambulance service is provided from the main centre at St. Austell, and in addition Fowey has its own ambulance which operates in the evenings and at week ends. The following figures give some idea of the work done by the St. Austell centre. It will be realised that Fowey is responsible for about one twentieth of this total.

	Patients	Miles
Ambulance.....	2607	44,809
Utilicon.....	9975	78,334
Hospital Car Services.....	2173	19,463
Fowey Ambulance.....	87	1,947

Thanks are due to the St. John's Brigade for their service, to Mrs. Batchelor, the Organisor of the Hospital Car Service, and to the many ladies and gentlemen who provided car transport at all times on request.

Nursing in the Home

There is one District Nurse - Midwife - Health Visitor for the area.

Domestic Help Service

The establishment is the equivalent of two full time helps. A total of 15 persons were aided of whom 5 were maternity cases. Thanks are due to Miss Garratt and Mr. Gatley for their administration of this service.

After Care

There were no tuberculous persons in receipt of after-care. Children discharged from hospital are followed up by the District Nurse.

Maternity & Child Welfare

It has not been possible to establish a child welfare clinic, and owing to the small numbers it is doubtful if it is advisable. This causes no hardship as all mothers and children are visited in their homes by the nurse.

Expectant mothers attend the clinic in St. Austell.

Hospitals

The town has a small 13 bedded hospital. Patients requiring specialised treatment go to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary at Truro or to Redruth.

Clinics.

Practically all the special clinics are held in St. Austell, either at the hospital, or at Moorland Road.

SECTION C

Sanitary Conditions in the District

Water

The general supply during the summer months was very precarious and all areas of the town were without water for short periods on several occasions. All supplies are from shallow springs, except the deep adit at Lescrow. To help matters a borehole, sunk in 1949, was re-opened and produced some 5-6000 galls per day. An additional borehole was sunk at Trezare in October, with a view to giving additional water for the summer of 1953.

The great influx of summer visitors with their heavy demands rapidly diminishes the amount in storage.

One small spring supply serving the low level system was abandoned due to unfitness.

Chlorination is done through the shipping reservoir and subsequently all levels are controlled by pumping from there to the medium and high level reservoirs. The low level area is fed from Lescrow and Shipping reservoir.

Practically the whole area has a mains supply and 803 properties are served. Of the remainder, Polkerris has a private supply serving 22 properties, Polmear is partly supplied from a pump and partly from St. Austell R.D.C. mains. There are 13 other properties with various supplies.

It is hoped that in a few years time the water requirements of Fowey will be met from a proposed scheme which will derive its water from the River Fowey.

Drainage & Sewerage

All drainage discharges along the foreshore at different points below low water mark. 5 sewers across the foreshore were taken up and relaid in spun iron pipe and a number of minor improvements carried out in the Town.

Public Scavanging

All the town receives a twice weekly refuse collection and outlying districts and farms once per fortnight.

Disinfection

Six disinfections were carried out, five for infectious diseases, one for vermin.

Rats and Mice

As there was no operator, Rodent Control was at a minimum and a part time operator only was available. However 130 premises were inspected, and this resulted in the discovery of three major and twenty minor rat infestations and 2 mice infestations. All sewers were test baited and found free from rats. Four farm premises were inspected. A full time operator was trained in December.

Nuisances

31 nuisances were dealt with informally and 126 complaints of various natures dealt with.

Conveniences

8 public conveniences serve the district. All have been thoroughly cleaned up and decorated.

SECTION D

Housing

There have been no improvements in the housing position during the year. No Council houses have been built but progress is being made with the Green Lane Scheme and 5 bungalows for the Windmill estate. At the time of writing, tenders have been accepted for the Green Lane Site Works.

The Council own 111 permanent houses and have 20 converted properties.

SECTION E

Food

Milk

There are two retailers who are not producers and one retailer-producer. The two retailers obtain their milk from Daws Creameries, Saltash, where all milk is bottled and delivered daily. 5 cases of dirty bottles were investigated and 80 visits to premises made.

Meat

Meat supplies are obtained from the slaughter house at St. Austell.

Cafes and Food Preparing Premises

Frequent visits were made to these premises and the general standard was found to be good. The proprietors are most co-operative and on requests being made for minor improvements they have readily accepted advice given.

Ice-Cream

8 batches of ice-cream samples were taken and all were found to be above the required standard.

Bakehouses

The one bakehouse is well maintained.

Condemned Foodstuffs

98 tins of various foodstuffs were condemned.

3 tinned hams total weight 37lbs. 12ozs.
Pork Sausages 20lbs.
Ground almonds 2lbs.
Pearl Barley 20lbs.

Condemned Foodstuffs continued

Lentils 12 lbs.
Custard Powder 24 lbs.
Prunes 30 lbs.
Currants 56 lbs.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received:-

Scarlet Fever - 1 case.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following table gives the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation against diphtheria up to 31st. December, 1952:-

Age at 31.12.52 i.e.Born in year	Under 1 1952	1 51	2 50	3 49	4 48	5 - 9 43 -47	10 - 14 38 - 42	Total und. 15 yrs.
Number immunised	1	10	26	13	27	54	18	149
Estimated Mid-year Population		165				249		414
Percentage Immunised		46.7				28.8		36.0

During the year 19 children were given a full immunising course and a further 19 received boosting doses to enhance immunity.

It cannot be too widely known that Diphtheria can still kill and that the citizens of Fowey by their neglect to have their children immunised are doing their best t. make an outbreak possible and probable. The percentage figures given above show that susceptible children under 5 yrs. of age are less well immunised than a year ago and less than half way to what the Chief Medical Officer considers a safe level.

Smallpox Vaccination

During the year 17 primary vaccinations and 5 revaccinations were given. The vaccinal state of the community is low.

Tuberculosis

The total number of cases on the register at 31st. December 1952 was as follows:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	4	10	14
Non-Pulmonary	2	2	4

The following table gives the age and sex distribution of cases and deaths for 1952.

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 34	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 & Over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	3	-	2	-	1	-	-

In addition to the above the following movements are recorded:-

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Transfers into district	-	-	-	-
Transfers out of the district	2	-	-	-
Recoveries	-	-	1	-

Sixteen children received B.C.G. Vaccination. This vaccination is offered to susceptible children who are contacts of infectious cases.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4,&6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	2	3		
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority	11	7	1	
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority (including out workers premises)				
Total	13	10	1	

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage on floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	-	-	1	-
(b) defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	1	-